

COVINGTON & BURLING

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

1201 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004-2401
TEL 202 662 6000
FAX 202 662 6291
WWW COV COM

WASHINGTON DC
NEW YORK
LONDON
BRUSSELS
SAN FRANCISCO

ORIGINAL

JENNIFER A JOHNSON
TEL 202 662 5552
FAX 202 778 5552
JJOHNSON@COV.COM

March 16, 2004

By Hand Delivery

RECEIVED

MAR 16 2004

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**Re: Ex Parte Notice in CS Docket Nos. 98-120 and 00-96, and
MB Docket No. 03-15**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

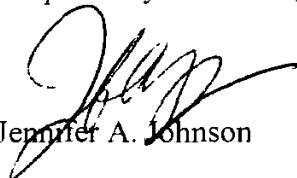
On March 15, 2004, Jonathan Blake and Jennifer Johnson, counsel for the CBS Television Network Affiliates Association and the NBC Television Affiliates, met on the issues of digital cable carriage and the second DTV periodic review with Kenneth Ferree, Deborah Klein, William Johnson, and Rick Chessen of the Media Bureau.

During this meeting, the participants discussed the Media Bureau's current thinking with respect to digital cable carriage and the DTV transition, and the reasons why the current set of ideas would deprive consumers of valued digital services, impede an effective DTV transition, and contravene the statutory requirement that digital signals not be subject to material degradation.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's Rules, an original and five copies (two for each docket number) of this letter are being submitted to the Secretary's office, with a copy to those at the FCC who participated in the meetings.

Please direct any questions regarding this notice to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer A. Johnson

cc: W. Kenneth Ferree
Deborah E. Klein
William H. Johnson
Rick C. Chessen